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IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims as indicated below:

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1. (Amended) An interlocking seating system comprising:

a support understructure;

a plurality of seat modules, each of said seat modules includes a body member having a first interlocking means and a second interlocking means respectively positioned on a first and an opposing second side of said body member; and,

a plurality of fasteners;

wherein said first interlocking means is adapted to receive said second interlocking means, thereby allowing adjacent seat modules to interlock and be secured to said support understructure by said fasteners inserted through said interlocked interlocking means;

wherein said blind rabbets and said tabs further include openings defined therethrough;

and

wherein said openings defined through said tabs are of a different size than said opening defined through said blind rabbets to allow lateral and rotational motions between said interlocked adjacent seat modules.

2. (Amended) An interlocking seating system comprising:

a support understructure;

a plurality of seat modules, each of said seat modules includes a body member having a first interlocking means and a second interlocking means respectively positioned on a first and an opposing second side of said body member; and,

a plurality of fasteners;

wherein the interlocking means of a first seat module is adapted to receive the interlocking means of a second seat module, thereby allowing two adjacent seat modules to interlock and be secured to said support understructure by said fasteners inserted through said interlocked interlocking means;

wherein said plurality of seat modules comprises interior seat modules and aisle seat modules, said interlocking means of said interior seat modules comprise a tab and a blind rabbet, and said interlocking means of said aisle seat modules comprise two blind rabbets, said blind rabbets are adapted to interlock with said tabs.

3. (Amended) The interlocking seating system of claim 2 wherein said blind rabbets and said tabs further include openings defined therethrough, said openings defined through said tabs have a different size than said opening defined through said blind rabbets, thereby allowing lateral and rotational motions between said interlocked adjacent seat modules.

11 2 6. (Amended) An interlocking seating system comprising:

a support understructure;

a plurality of seat modules, each of said seat modules includes a body member having a first interlocking means ³⁴ and a second interlocking means ^{opposite region that receives 34} respectively positioned on a first and an opposing second side of said body member; and,

a plurality of ^{screws} fasteners;

wherein the interlocking means of a first seat module is adapted to receive the interlocking means of a second seat module, thereby allowing two adjacent seat modules to interlock and be secured to said support understructure by said fasteners inserted through said interlocked interlocking means;

wherein said tab ³⁶ further includes a rib ^{NAB} disposed thereon, wherein said rib impinges a contacted surface of ^{NAB} (said blind rabbet) ³⁸ of an adjacent seat module after assembly, thereby providing frictional resistance to movement between said adjacent seat modules.

7. (Amended) An interlocking seating system comprising:

a support understructure;

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a plurality of seat modules, each of said seat modules includes a body member having a first interlocking means and a second interlocking means respectively positioned on a first and an opposing second side of said body member; and,

a plurality of fasteners;

wherein the interlocking means of a first seat module is adapted to receive the interlocking means of a second seat module, thereby allowing two adjacent seat modules to interlock and be secured to said support understructure by said fasteners inserted through said interlocked interlocking means;

wherein each said body member further comprises reinforcement means for added rigidity, a curved front, a curved top, and a bottom having a concave surface formed therein; and

wherein said concave surface engages said curved top when said curved top is deflected downward by weight of an occupant.

12. (Amended) A seat module for installation on a support comprising:

Duckett et al
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a one-piece body member having a first and a second engagement member disposed at a first and an opposing second side of said body member, respectively;
said first and second engagement members further including openings therethrough for receiving fasteners;

wherein an engagement member of a first said seat module is adapted to receive an engagement member of a second said seat module, thereby allowing the interlocking and placement of said first and said second seat modules in a side by side relationship, to be secured to said support by fasteners through said openings; and

wherein said interlocked first and second seat modules are adapted to substantially pivot relative to one another.

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15. (Amended) A seat module comprising:

a one-piece body member having a first and a second engagement member disposed at a first and an opposing second side of said body member, respectively;

said first and second engagement members further including openings therethrough for receiving fasteners;

wherein an engagement member of a first said seat module is adapted to receive an engagement member of a second said seat module, thereby allowing the interlocking and placement of said first and said second seat modules in a side by side relationship, to be secured to said support by fasteners through said openings;

wherein said openings defined through said tab comprise a front and a rear elongated slots wherein said rear elongated slot is longer than said front elongated slot; and wherein said openings defined through said blind rabbets are apertures.

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19. (Amended) A seat module comprising:

a one-piece body member having a first and a second engagement member disposed at a first and an opposing second side of said body member, respectively;

said first and second engagement members further including openings therethrough for receiving fasteners;

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wherein an engagement member of a first said seat module is adapted to receive an engagement member of a second said seat module, thereby allowing the interlocking and placement of said first and said second seat modules in a side by side relationship, to be secured to ^{NAS} said support by fasteners through said openings;

wherein said body member provides a recessed area for receiving a plate having indicia thereon; and

wherein each said body member further includes reinforcement means to provide added rigidity, a curved front, a curved upper surface, and a bottom having a concave surface formed therein and adapted to receive said curved upper surface when said curved upper surface is being deflected down by weight of an occupant; and wherein said recessed area is tilted upward.

20. (Amended) A seating system comprising:

Docket ¹⁰ a support having a plurality of interior seat positions and first and second end seat positions within a sitting row;

¹² a plurality of interior seat modules adapted for placement on said interior seat positions and said first end seat position, each of said plurality of interior seat modules comprising a body member having a ^{22b} tab protruding from a first side and a blind rabbet recessed in a second side of said body member; ^{under 22a}

15 an aisle seat module adapted for placement on said second end seat position, comprising a body member having at least one blind rabbet recess in a side of said body member; *B*

²⁹ a plurality of fasteners for attaching said interior and aisle seat modules to said support; and wherein

said tabs and said blind rabbets further includes openings disposed therethrough for receiving said fasteners, said blind rabbets are adapted to receive said tabs whereby a seating row can be built by pivotably interlocking a plurality of said interior seat modules and capping said plurality of said interlocked interior seat modules with said aisle seat modules, and attaching said interlocked interior and aisle seat modules to said support by said fasteners through said openings.

5b Bb 21. (Amended) The seating system of claim 20 wherein said body member provides a recessed area for receiving a plate having indicia thereon and wherein said recessed area is tilted upward.

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22. (Amended) A seating system comprising:

a support having a plurality of interior seat positions and first and second end seat positions within a sitting row;

a plurality of interior seat modules adapted for placement on said interior seat positions and said first end seat position, each of said plurality of interior seat modules comprising a body member having a tab protruding from a first side and a blind rabbet recessed in a second side of said body member;

an aisle seat module adapted for placement on said second end seat position, comprising a body member having at least one blind rabbet recess in a side of said body member;

a plurality of fasteners for attaching said interior and aisle seat modules to said support; end caps adapted for placement at said end seat position for receiving plates having indicia thereon; and

wherein said tabs and said blind rabbets further includes openings disposed therethrough for receiving said fasteners;

wherein said blind rabbets are adapted to receive said tabs whereby a seating row can be built by interlocking a plurality of said interior seat modules and capping said plurality of said interlocked interior seat modules with said aisle seat modules; and

(wherein attaching said interlocked interior and aisle seat modules to said support by said fasteners through said openings.) ^{... method step?}

wherein said body member provides a recessed area for receiving a plate having indicia thereon and wherein said recessed area is tilted upward.